



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 23, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

IN THIS REPORT:

- **Superintendent Luna kicks off Pennies of Lincoln fund drive**
- **Apply now for the Idaho Building Capacity Project**
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SUPERINTENDENT LUNA KICKS OFF THE PENNIES FOR LINCOLN FUND DRIVE ([GO TO TOP](#))

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna joined students at Lincoln Elementary School in Caldwell on Monday to kick off the Pennies for Lincoln fund drive in schools across Idaho.

The Pennies for Lincoln fundraiser encourages Idaho's elementary school students to learn about Abraham Lincoln and celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth on February 12, 1809. *Pennies for Lincoln* will also raise money for the Idaho Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission's efforts to create more opportunities for Idaho students to learn about Abraham Lincoln and to move the Lincoln Monument in Idaho to a more prominent place near the Idaho Statehouse.

Details of the *Pennies for Lincoln* fund drive:

WHAT: This is a fundraising effort by Idaho teachers and students. As a classroom activity, the collection of "Pennies for Lincoln" is encouraged in support of the teaching, celebration and recognition of the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth on February 12, 1809.

WHO: Sponsored by Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and the Idaho Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, all schools, teachers and classes are encouraged to participate. Each child is encouraged to bring Lincoln pennies or other spare change to class and deposit it in a collection jug.

WHEN: The Fund Drive runs from Wednesday, October 1, to Friday, December 5, 2008 when classroom jugs should be turned into the principal's office. School principals are asked to convert the change to a bank check and send it to the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission by December 15, 2008.



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WHY: In 1915, the wives of Civil War Union veterans donated the oldest Lincoln monument and statue in the Western United States to Idaho. It will be renovated and relocated from the parking lot of the Veterans' Home near Fort Boise to a place of great prominence in front of the Statehouse. A rededication plaque and ceremony will recognize the efforts of Idaho's students and veterans in helping move the statue. The school collecting the most money will be asked to participate in the ceremony representing all Idaho elementary schools.

All Idaho elementary schools are encouraged to participate. The fundraiser will run until Friday, December 5, 2008. For more information or to learn how your school can participate, visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social_studies/.

APPLY NOW FOR THE IDAHO BUILDING CAPACITY PROJECT (GO TO TOP)

Idaho schools and districts have until **Friday, October 31, 2008** to apply for the Idaho Building Capacity Project.

The Idaho Building Capacity Project is a statewide system of support that will offer a deeper level of technical assistance to schools and districts in Needs Improvement status under No Child Left Behind. Title I schools and districts that are in Year 1, Year 2, Corrective Action or Restructuring are eligible to submit an application for the Idaho Building Capacity Project. If selected, schools and districts will engage in a three-year, scaffolded school improvement planning and implementation process that includes the services of a trained outside consultant (known as a Capacity Builder) professional development opportunities and provided resources. The project is managed by the Center for School Improvement at Boise State University, in partnership with the Idaho State Department of Education.

The Center for School Improvement is also accepting applications for potential Capacity Builders, who are recently retired educational leaders with an interest in serving as independent consultants trained to facilitate the work of school improvement. If you are interested in becoming a Capacity Builder, please submit your application by **November 17, 2008**.

For more information about the Idaho Building Capacity Project or to download application materials, please visit <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Page471.htm>. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Kinnaman, School Improvement Coordinator, at (208) 426-2154 or lisakinnaman@boisestate.edu.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend a media event to announce the Qwest Foundation for Education Grant for Idaho teachers at 11:15 a.m. on Monday, October 27 at Collister Elementary School in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Capital for a Day with Governor Otter in Sugar City on Friday, October 31.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **ELD Math and Science Standards workshop** -- The State Department of Education, in conjunction with WestEd, is hosting ELD Math and Science Standards Workshops aimed at training math and science teachers at the



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elementary, middle, and high school level to train other teachers in assisting LEP students with excelling in math and science. Each district is strongly encouraged to bring a math and science instructor, an ESL/bilingual instructor and administrator to these trainer-of-trainer workshops. To register for a workshop, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/eld/>. Here is the schedule of workshops, which will all be held from 8 a.m. to noon:

- Nampa: November 4, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center
- Twin Falls: November 20, 2008 at College of Southern Idaho's Herrett Center
- Idaho Falls: November 21, 2008 at the Red Lion Hotel on the Falls

If you are traveling from northern Idaho please contact Tyrel Trainor, Administrative Assistant Title III/LEP, at (208) 332-6942 or tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov so he can arrange to pay for travel to the Idaho Falls or Nampa workshops.

- **Title I, Part D surveys now online** -- The Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 and Subpart 1 Surveys are available online for Neglected or Delinquent agencies to complete prior to the **December 1, 2008** deadline for submission. Please visit the following web sites to access the surveys:
 - Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/neglected/Online/StateSurvey.asp>
 - Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/neglected/Online/LocalSurvey.asp>
- **Education News Parents Can Use** -- The U.S. Department of Education hosts a regular TV series about ways to ensure children's educational success. The next "Education News Parents Can Use" broadcast, focusing on costs of higher education and federal aid programs, is scheduled for November 18, 2008 (8 p.m. ET). For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>.
- **National Geographic Bee deadline extended** -- The official registration ends October 15 every year, but has been extended to **December 12, 2008**. Each year, thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Idaho State Geographic Bee will be held April 3, 2009 at Boise State University. For complete information on the Bee, visit www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee. For information about the Idaho Geographic Bee, please contact David Wilkins, Idaho State Geographic Bee Coordinator at dwilkins@boisestate.edu.
- **Attendance and Enrollment reporting deadlines** -- The attendance and enrollment first reporting period ends Friday, November 7, 2008 and all attendance and enrollment reports are due to the State Department of Education on November 14, 2008. If you need assistance in submitting your reports or have questions on attendance and enrollment reporting, please contact Greg Berg Coordinator Public School Finance at: GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Essay contest for Idaho students** -- The Idaho section of the American Nuclear Society and Idaho National Laboratory are sponsoring the 2008 Southeastern Idaho High School Essay Contest, which is open to students in 9-12 grades. First place will receive a \$2,000 U.S. Savings Bond. The essay topic is to discuss nuclear energy and its implications for lowering atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions that have been linked to global climate change. Visit http://local.ans.org/Idaho/ans/News/Entries/2008/12/1_Idaho_ANS_Essay_Contest.html for more information or to download an entry form. Entries are due **December 1, 2008**.



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- **Surplus items available** -- The following surplus furniture items are now available on a first come, first served basis from the State Department of Education. If you are interested in one or more of these items, please contact Brandon Phillips at (208) 332-6867 or BCPhillips@sde.idaho.gov.
 - 4 drawer lateral file cabinet 42'' wide x 19'' deep x 53'' tall
 - 4 drawer lateral file cabinet 42'' wide x 19'' deep x 53'' tall
 - 2 door metal cabinet 36'' wide x 18'' deep x 78'' tall
 - 2 door metal cabinet 30'' wide x 18'' deep x 66'' tall
 - Small side desk 27'' across x 27'' deep x 29'' tall

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Comment on proposed changes to school social worker endorsement** -- The Professional Standards Commission is seeking comments on proposed changes to the School Social Workers Standards and Endorsement. The proposed changes are posted on the State Department of Education web site. To learn more, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/socialworkers/>.
- **School Improvement Webinars** -- The State Department of Education is hosting monthly workshops, presented via webinars, based on the *Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools* through the 2008-2009 school year. This month's topic will be an overview of a research-based system of school organization called the 3-Tier Model, which is the basis for Idaho's School Improvement process and includes ongoing data utilization, instructional focus, alignment, and collaboration. Two separate sessions will be presented on **October 28, 2008**: The 10 a.m. webinar will be geared towards implementing the model at the elementary level; the 3 p.m. session will be focused on the needs of secondary schools. Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement and School Accountability Marybeth Flachbart will be facilitating both sessions. To register for the webinars, please visit <http://idla.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp> and click on the "IdahoLive" tab. *Participants are also encouraged to register for one of the many IdahoLive training sessions prior to the 3-Tier workshop.*
- **Classroom Supplies for G/T teachers** -- The State Department of Education would like to remind school districts and charter schools that Gifted/Talented Facilitators should be included in the annual classroom supplies funding. The Public School Finance staff calculates the funding based on the "teacher" FTEs that are reported in IBEDS as of the last Friday in September. This includes IBEDS assignment codes 00001 thru 31999, and 51001 through 73999. Gifted/Talented Facilitators are codes 31510 thru 31540; therefore, they should also receive \$350 a year in classroom supplies funding. The full listing of IBEDS assignment codes is available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/ibeds/docs/forms/Assignment%20Code%20Listing%20-%20All%20Grades.pdf>. If you have questions about coding in IBEDS, please contact Myrna Holgate at (208) 332-6844 or MLHolgate@sde.idaho.gov.
- **We Are Family Conference** -- The 2009 We Are Family Conference for Idahoans with disabilities and their families will be held January 13-16, 2009 in Boise. The conference is sponsored by the Idaho State Independent Living Council, Idaho Parents Unlimited and the Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. For more information, please visit <http://www.silc.idaho.gov/>.



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- **Lincoln Bicentennial** -- Schools have several opportunities to take part in the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration. Here are some of the ways in which schools can participate: collect Pennies for Lincoln, enter the Abraham Lincoln Essay Contest, access the available lesson plans, participate in a teacher seminar, view the Lincoln Traveling Museum Exhibit. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social_studies/ to learn more.
- **Virtues Conference 2008** -- Northwest Nazarene University and the Idaho ASCD invite teachers, counselors and administrators to participate in the Virtues conference, which will be held November 20-21, 2008 on the NNU campus in Nampa. Inspiring speakers and founders of The Virtues Project Linda Kavelin Popov and Dr. Dan Popov will help you create a school environment that includes: student leadership, stress reduction for test fatigue, creating an environment for academic excellence, a 90-day plan for positive change and ways to transform classroom and school violence to virtues. Visit <http://www.nnu.edu/virtues> to register.
- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil. Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil.
- **Early Years 2008 conference** – The Early Years 2008 conference will be held November 18-19, 2008 at Boise State University for parents and early childhood professionals from an array of disciplines. The conference will highlight the many interrelated aspects of growth that impact a child's development. For more information or to register, please visit www.idahochild.org.
- **Secretary of State offers opportunity for 17-year-old students** – In Idaho, if a student is 17 years old and a U.S. citizen, they can serve as a poll worker on Election Day. Please visit <http://www.idahovotes.gov/Clerk.htm> to find out how you can contact your local county clerk and ask for more information. Student poll workers are paid for their time.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Oct. 24, 2008** – The deadline for submissions in the 2008 Holiday Card Contest. Each year, the State Department of Education sponsors a Holiday Card contest to draw attention to art programs in Idaho's elementary schools. One drawing is selected for the Department's holiday greeting. The child who submits the selected artwork receives cards for his or her own use. Visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click on "Holiday Card Contest" under the Latest News heading to learn more.
- **Oct. 29, 2008** – The deadline to enter the Idaho State Historical Society's photography contest to recognize Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month will highlight the work of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Idaho. The submitted image should show a WPA project, demonstrate the success of the WPA, speak to the magnitude of the WPA, and/or illustrate its importance in Idaho.



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The competition is open to Idaho high school and college students. For more information, please visit www.idahohistory.net or contact Shelby Day at (208) 334-3847 ext. 109 or shelby.day@ishs.idaho.gov.

- **Oct. 30, 2008** -- The deadline to postmark entries for the Idaho Forest Products Commission's 14th annual Forest Products Week Essay Contest. Contact the Commission at (208) 334-4061 or plt@idahoforests.org, or visit www.idahoforests.org for contest guidelines, writing prompts and scoring criteria. Winners receive a savings bond, and their class receives cash.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These awards, presented nationwide by Prudential Financial Inc., in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), honor outstanding community service by young people in grades 5 through 12. Please visit www.prudential.com/spirit or at www.principals.org/prudential for more details.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** -- The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 IFARMS Annual Financial Report as required by Idaho Code 33-701(7). The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms and supporting documents can be found at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit materials for the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Each year, two outstanding student leaders from Idaho are selected as delegates to the program where they will travel to Washington, D.C. with all expenses paid and view their federal government in action, meet with national leaders on Capitol Hill, at the White House, the Supreme Court, the Pentagon and the State Department. Each student also receives a one-time \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators Teachers Scholarships and Classroom Mini-Grants. Awards range from \$200 to \$500. All educators are eligible. See www.nwpe.org for an application.
- **Nov. 1, 2008** -- The deadline for Native American students in Idaho to apply for the Columbia River Professional Chapter, American Indian Science & Engineering Society's annual college/university scholarships. Plans are to award two at \$1,000 each. Applicants must be Native American and residing in Oregon, Washington, or Idaho. For more details and to download an application form, visit www.aisescrc.org and click on the "Scholarships" link.
- **Nov. 3, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for the third annual BubbleWrap® Competition for Young Inventors, sponsored by the Sealed Air Corporation and The National Museum of Education. The contest is open to students in grades 5-8. This innovative contest incorporates national and state academic standards in the fields of engineering design, problem-solving, entrepreneurship and all of the core curricular subjects. Visit www.nmoe.org for more details about the competition. Applications may be received via hard copy mail, email or FAX. If you have further questions, please contact the National Museum of Education at info@nmoe.org or (330) 376-8300.
- **Nov. 7, 2008** -- The deadline for elementary schools to apply for a chance to receive one of ten \$15,000 grants from the makers of Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings. Each grant award will support an elementary school in developing a program offering fresh vegetables and fruits lasting through the 2009-10 school year. Each school grant will



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consist of \$15,000 in direct funding, and a one-time donation of Hidden Valley® Original Ranch® Light Dressing. Funding must be spent on any of the following: Fresh produce, a vegetable station, kitchen equipment, program staffing, nutrition education supplies and/or training. All proposals must be submitted online at www.LoveYourVeggiesGrants.org.

- **Nov. 10, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 Independent Audit Report. Idaho Code 33-701(6), which requires submission of the independent audit report, was modified during the 2008 Legislative Session. Not only was the due date changed from October 15 to November 10, but penalties for late submission were also added. If the SDE has not received your report on or before November 10, your November 15 foundation payment may be withheld until the report is received. Please work with your auditor and school board to ensure submission prior to November 10. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Nov. 14, 2008 -- The deadline to apply for the** National Excellence in Urban Education Award. The award recognizes the dedication and talent of urban school educators and students, provides a benchmark of excellence that motivates reform efforts and deepens the knowledge base of best practices for promoting urban school transformation. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.ncust.org>.
- **Nov. 28, 2008** – The deadline to enter into the Council for America's First Freedom's 16th annual First Freedom Student Competition. The competition is a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. For more information on this competition, please visit www.firstfreedom.org. Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is November 28, 2008.
- **Dec. 4, 2008 --** The deadline to submit Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. You can mail applications to:
State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Oravez
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
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- **Dec. 5, 2008 --** The deadline to nominate a teacher for the Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award, which will be given to educators who demonstrate exemplary efforts to help parents and children achieve their academic and non-academic goals. Please visit <http://www.famlit.org/toyotateacher> for nomination guidelines.
- **Dec. 8, 2008 --** The deadline for school to apply for the National School or District of Character award by the Character Education Partnership (CEP). The purpose of the award is to honor these exemplars and facilitate their leadership in the field of character education. Visit www.character.org/nsoc for more information.



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- **Dec. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants. Teachers who are new to the profession, their grade level or school district are eligible to apply. See www.nwpe.org for an application.
- **Jan. 13, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, which is a paid fellowship for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. Visit www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm to learn more or to apply online.
- **Jan. 20, 2008** -- The deadline for students to enter the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national video documentary competition, which is open to middle school and high school students (grades 6-12). This year C-SPAN asks students to create a 5- to 8-minute video documentary that addresses an issue of national significance. For more information, please visit www.studentcam.org. If you have any questions, e-mail emartin@c-span.org or call (800) 523-7586.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** – The Idaho Dropout Summit has been scheduled at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. More details to come.